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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/384,468	08/27/1999	JERRY IGGULDEN	D00607/70007.US NPF	7882
8791	7590	12/21/2005	EXAMINER	
BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN 12400 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD SEVENTH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90025-1030			TRAN, THAI Q	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2616		

DATE MAILED: 12/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/384,468	IGGULDEN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Thai Tran	2616	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 October 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 40 and 41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 40 and 41 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Terminal Disclaimer

1. The terminal disclaimers filed on Oct. 12, 2005 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of US Patent Nos. 5,692,093 and 5,999,688 have been reviewed and are accepted. The terminal disclaimers have been recorded.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed Oct. 12, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants state that claims 40-41, the only claims pending in the application, have been rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting in view of U.S. Patent Nos. 5,692,093 and 5,999,688, that two Terminal Disclaimers are submitted herewith to obviate these rejections, and that Terminal Disclaimer has been previously filed with respect to U.S. Patent Nos. 5,333,091 and 5,987,210.

In response, it is noted that claims 40-41 are rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting in view of **three U.S. Patent Nos. 5,692,093, 5,696,866, and 5,999,688**. However, only two Terminal Disclaimers were filed with respect to U.S. Patent Nos. 5,692,093 and 5,999,688. Since only two Terminal Disclaimers were filed, claims 40-41 are again rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 17 and 23 of U.S. Patent No. 5,696,866 as stated in the last Office Action.

Double Patenting

3. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

4. Claims 40-41 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 17 and 23 of U.S. Patent No. 5,696,866. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because

Regarding claim 40 of this application, claim 23 of U.S. Patent No. 5,696,866 recites a method of eliminating commercial message during playback of a television program recorded on a recording medium comprising the steps of:

- (a) detecting an event in the television signal as the television program is recorded;
- (b) storing data representative of a tape location for said detected event;
- (c) analyzing said detected event to classify a segment of the television signal adjacent to said detected event as one of commercial and non-commercial;

(d) marking the recording medium with a signal to identify said segment of the television signal if it is classified as commercial;

(e) replaying the recorded television program such that said segment is replayed at a normal rate if it is classified as non-commercial and is replayed at a higher than normal rate if it is classified as commercial. However, claim 23 of U.S. Patent No. 5,696,866 does not specifically recite that the detecting events in the video program, each of said events being at least one of the flat frame, a silent frame and a cut.

It is well known and old in the art that one of the simple way to detect the commercial is to detecting at least one of the flat frame, a silent frame and a cut and; therefore, Official Notice is taken.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the well known commercial detection into claim 23 of U.S. Patent No. 5,696,866 in order to simplify the process of detecting commercials.

Claim 41 of this application is rejected over claim 17 of U.S. Patent No. 5,696,866 for the same reasons as discussed in claim 40 of this application.

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thai Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-7382. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. to Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TTQ



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "THAI TRAN". To the right of the signature, the text "PATENT EXAMINER" is printed vertically along the stroke of the signature.